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Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP75B00514R000100060002-8

8 December 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Intelligence Resources
Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : Communications Study

1. At its 19 June meeting, IRAC decided that its Working Group should arrange for a review of requirements for intelligence communications, and of the programs and costs involved, to enable IRAC to evaluate potential resource commitments for plans underway. Under terms of reference developed by the IRAC Working Group, the Telecommunications Working Group of the USIB was asked to prepare the necessary data. Their report, which is more comprehensive than the quick review requested by IRAC, is attached.

2. The programs outlined on pages 27 and 28 of the report indicate that communication (as defined in the report) represents slightly more than five percent of the overall National Intelligence Program. No dramatic rise in intelligence communications costs is anticipated through FY 1976. The trend in programmed funds for communications activities is virtually level except for

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you will note also that the manpower requirement declines somewhat.

3. As the study notes, it is desirable to ensure that a minimum number of dedicated communications networks are authorized in response to special security or geographic requirements and that maximum use be made of common-user arrangements. The recent trend in this regard seems satisfactory. The Working Group also notes that technological improvements in communications systems and communications support to collection and processing techniques not yet programmed, may have significant influence on communications costs. IRAC may therefore wish to have the attached study updated periodically, perhaps annually, to ensure that these factors are given adequate visibility.

4. We recommend that IRAC accept this report as fulfillment of its 19 June charge to the Working Group, which believes that a more extensive review of the communications problem is probably unnecessary for the present.

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